

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1-5, 9-14, 18-22, 24-26, 28-33, 35-37, 39-43, 45-47 and 49-50 and amends claims 6, 8, 15, 17, 23, 34 and 44. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 6-8, 15-17, 23, 27, 34, 38, 44 and 48 will be pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 6-8, 15-17, 23, 27, 34, 38, 44 and 48 would be allowable. The claims have been rewritten as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, the claims should be allowed.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

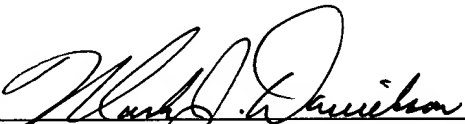
In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 12, 28, 39 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 3-5, 9-11, 13-14, 18-22, 24-25, 29-33, 35-36, 40-43, 45-46 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. By this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten and amended the claims such that only the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner remains. Accordingly, these rejections are rendered moot. By the Amendment, Applicant does not in any way concur with the rejections, and does not waive the right to argue against the bases for these rejections and seek the allowance of the rejected claims in a continuation application.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, and in view of the foregoing, the claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he or she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

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